

 UKE THAT SHOUN GET \& THE WWY?"

"Kom' has aispdT is faguan for pust!




${ }^{\circ}$ ONCE URON A TMN THERS Was THEE DOGe-








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6



Burprlaed and plested, Lucky Burk* turntd, smiling. At h! gb sehool a se, you eren't often called "sir."

But the msin who had touched him on the ahoulder in the hetol lobby wasn't emillace. He wan a stock mat with gquiel srity eyell and a firm mouth
"Would you come thls way, piense ? he asked. "Someona would like to talk to you."

Swagering a little, Lucky followed hlm acrose the bobby and into a foom with an ane marked doon. Inabdes not a line of Lucky's face changed so a red-fread man got up from bealde the desk and maid hotly, "That'r him! That's the young pank who took my wallet!"
"Wallet" Lacky asked innocently. He pretended to sencch his pockents, then came out with his own wellet. "I'm sorry. There's been some mistake 1 just have my own. Hers, take a inol."

He passed it over and watrhed, smilling, sa the two mben examined th. Tite mañ who had broaght Mim from the lobby hended it beck.
"I'm Mr. Regan, the securlity offleer for the hotel", he explained, "Mr. Willisms, here, is one of our guests, A few minutes ago, be was hurrylag to catch a ent. Whes he got in the cab, he went to look in his wellet for the sddress he wonted, end his wellet was gone. Then ho remembered that just insida the lohby he had bumped into a young man. Someone he says looke like you."

"tit it hims," the red-foend mats eried. "He pleked my pocket and threw the wallet sway somewhere, after le took the momes out! You anw how much monty he hid-aver two hundred dollars! Where would e kid like hins get so much money ? ${ }^{+3}$
"Yes, where?" the detective sgreed. "Would you mind talling ug, sif?"

Lucker thruged. "Im just lacky!"
"You're lucky! So you nutaratlosilfy get mones, is that it?"
"You don't got It, Mirter," Lacky told him. "I'm really locky, I was horn en Erilasy the thirteenth. I'm alwnys winming games, or costents, of finding things - especially ob the thirteenth. Thirteen is my lucky number. And today in..."
"Uh-uh," the detective reid. "Today's the thirteenth."
"Thit le elideuloser" Mr. Williamn exploded, "I've juak lost over two hundred dollart, I've misced my appolatment, and you sit here talkIng about luck! I'm going to call the polise ${ }^{\text {a }}$
"Let's try to settle thus here," the holet detective reid soothingly. "The hotel would eppreciote as fittie trouble as possible. Mr. Willumas," He torned back to Lucky, and his eyek harrowed.
"All right," he ordered. "What's your story? What are you hanging around the hotel for? And where did you gel the money?
"T'm waiting to taloe s frlend of mine to -tunchi" Lucky suid smoochly. He glanced at the clock on the wall "He gets ofif at twelve-thirty. Maybe you know hum-Tom Lomis. He's runnibg se elevator bere during bat vasation. Needs the money for his follen."

Regan frowned "Woomle? Yes, I know Tom, A nice, polite boy = good warker. I mever thought he'd be mixed up with sbeveent lika youl"
"Whots mixed ap?" Lueky demsided. "W。 go to school isgether. He, works in the gummer, and 1 take it easly, that's all, Once in a while 1 take him to bunch sometime to a movie"
"Because you re fucks, and he has to work. I see All right, then, whore did you get the maney $r^{*}$
"A man gave it to me to deliver somethingan envelope-upstairs."
"Two havdred dollarst" the dstoctlve asid. "Just to deliver an eavelope? You really art lucky! Wbo wan this man, and whom did youl deliver the envelope to ti
"I never saw the man before. He was juat all ordinary guy ln the lobby. And I didn't see the man upstairs. His had all the shades is the room dowa, ne lighte on."
"Well, what room was ft?"
Lucky srlaned. "I bappened to remember thatl It was 1812 ${ }^{m}$

The detectlve leared boek In his chair, EYou really are lacky," he repentod. "Two handred dollary fust to daitiver an sinvelope to a room with your lueky number-1st Any way of prov* ing this-and when it lapponed ${ }^{7 \prime}$
"Sure" " Lacky asid essily."'Tom Loontis took me up to the floor. I soticed by the clock in the lobby that it was juat a nanute or two before twelve, You know that clock - the one that bangs out the hours. I remember I was glad to get upstalrs before it started all that racket."
"He's lying!" Mr. Williams aceusod. "Don't yoa nee? He kwors I was robked just as the clock was striking! That's why he says te was upstaim then. The ekel wis striking twelve $4_{4}$ and $I$ turned to see where the chimen wert coming from, and that's whee he bumped into me l"

The detective picked wy the phone. "Send in Tom Loomla, pleave. Birht awsy." Then he tsened back to Lucky.
ryou're sure about that room number, are ros $\uparrow$ I can check with the secupant, you know ${ }^{\prime \prime}$

Lueky grimned confidently, "Yon wea't zet anything out of ksw! He'll peobably say he tever saw me before. What pould you expect t He had all the shaden down, no lights on. There was something fishy about bim, that's for sure, He kopt me taiking for five or ten minutes, asklat mo what I did, if I wanted any mive jobs like that. I could teil there whe semething wrong aboat him, so I zald no. One jeb lilie that is enoegh for mes"

The door opened behlad him "HI, Tomt" he grintutd at the tall, bleode boy who enterech "Riendy for lunch?"

## "Yas, I guent so, Lucky," Tom taid "But, is taytainit wrong tr

The detective apole ap. "Tour friend hwo has a fittie too much moneg, sod Mr. Will lams, ons of cur gupats, han too iittic. Lucky hays yed took him up to the tbirtsenth foor to dellver an "nvelope" "
"The thlrteenth ?" Tom aaid. "But ..."
"That'e right, Tomi" Lueks enid quilekly. "I tald you about it hifar a locky room-isis And it sust lueky I I got two hundred bwetes for
the job. We can have a real tunch on that, eft And that old jstopy yon were looking at, maybe I can balp you ..."
"Don't try to hribe him [" the detective noapeed. "His can't help youl"
"Come ons, TomI" Lucky plended. For the first time, thert wis an eige of ficar to hla voice. "Just toil tham you took me up to thirteen, that's all!"
"I-I just can't Luehy. Kaybe I woald if I could, but I cas't! ${ }^{\text {! }}$
"That's trues" the detective said. "He can't say be took you to the thlirteenth Boor, because there is no thirteenth floor ${ }^{\prime \prime \prime}$ "
"You cun't triek me that way!" Laviky snaried. "This hotal has tigenty floors!"

The detective smilled grinely. "Twenty floors, yes, but no thirteenth floor. You suetmont people aren't lacky, like yous, aboat the namber thirtoen. They're superstitfous about 18 , and very fow people weald stay in a room with the number you dreamed up-1818. That's why, its all big hotels, the room on the floor above the teretith floor are numbered in the $1400^{\prime}$ ! As far as room numbers. ge, there just $t \mathrm{~m}^{\prime}$ t any thirteenth floor ${ }^{1 "}$
"Goak, I'm sorry, Lbeky," Tom asid. "You see, I just coulds't have helped you, even if I Wanted tol"
"We'li find somobne to help him!" the detective agid, reaching for the phone "It may take t year of two, but to may convinet him thet yea can't slways truat to luck!"





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# RUNNING W/ <br>  








## Dexnismernks


"IF DWr's 板 Whlson. . ...fire nor Trus!
"You ow peop yor Heos, wowh Jus is JuFTA parand TiCkET.


"MOU WMITS DO gCREON A CUP of GUGUR AND ID.






